

Council Goals & Planning Workshop

March 17, 2012

Attending:

Councilor Tom Brann

Councilor Jeremy Williams

Councilor Jean Lawlis

Councilor Shelby Wright

Councilor Kristen Hornbrook

Councilor Andre Cushing

Mayor Janet Hughes

Town Manager Susan Lessard, Facilitator

Interested residents

The meeting was opened at 8:30 a.m. by facilitator, Town Manager Susan Lessard. Each Councilor gave a brief introduction explaining why they had sought public service. Following the introductions, the Council discussed ground rules for the day. Ground rules established were as follows:

1. Courtesy
2. All ideas have value
3. Stay on task

Expectations of the session were cited as follows:

1. Tie planning to expectations and reality
2. Clearer expectations for Council actions
3. Periodic evaluation and documentation of progress
4. Financial discussions on a five year plan basis
5. Assess reserves and their purpose
6. Adjust Town to State business practices with an emphasis on customer service
7. Clear direction
8. More communication with residents in more user –friendly ways

2011 Goals/Objectives/Accomplishments

1. Keep the mil rate the same – accomplished
2. Comprehensive Plan adoption – still in process
3. Sell lots in the business park – 2 sold in 2011
4. Hampden Academy re-use – still in process
5. Turtle Head Marina Park - \$520,000 grant to facilitate received – details of completion still in process
6. Saturday bus service – implemented September 2011, good ridership, well received by the public
7. Pool concerns – ongoing, working on air handler issues
8. Transfer station – increase in fees – not accomplished
9. Outside agencies - process needs to be developed prior to 2012/12 budget consideration
10. Providing services to other Towns – GIS service being shared with Water District, Public Safety collaboration explored with Hermon, recreation opportunities explored with Newburgh and Winterport

Positives and negatives of 2011/2012

Positives:

1. Mil rate
2. Marina project
3. Hampden academy moving forward
4. Open communication with SAD #22
5. Mayo Road Project
6. Public Safety service delivery
7. Grants
8. Business/residential growth

Negatives

1. Perception of Council
2. Better communication needed
3. Logistics – meeting schedules, cancelled committee meetings
4. Potential costs of Hampden Academy re-use
5. More department updates needed
6. More systematic way to deal with feedback
7. Solutions for pool problems needed

Background/Images

1. School budget increase \$125,000 -\$125,000
2. County tax increase
3. Union contracts expire 6/30/2012
4. Stormwater rules will add major costs
5. Sucker Brook –urban impaired stream

The Council took a lunch break for an hour and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

Focus Areas

1. Clean up rules of governance, codification of ordinances
2. Comp plan to Planning Board for implementation
3. Solid waste options – recycling
4. Change in attitude toward new ideas
5. Cooperation with other communities for challenges
6. Maria project
7. Waterfront development
8. Senior Citizen services
9. Improve relationship/effectiveness of council
10. Improve public perception of Council
11. Look at ways to shrink government/costs
12. More creative ways to provide/fund services
13. Combine water and sewer services
14. Community survey of service provision/costs
15. Pool funding - no imperative to change attitude toward funding

16. Pursue corporate sponsorships/support
17. People should have to pay taxes with two checks – one for school portion, one for municipal portion of budget
18. What is the Council's role?
19. Education needed on role of each department
20. Changes needed in development/planning department
21. IT assistance needed for GIS/IT
22. Coldbrook Road planning
23. Open Space & Connectivity of green space
24. Park Management
25. Town Forest

2012/2013 Priorities

1. Citizen survey/education piece
2. Hampden Academy re-use
3. Improve relationships/effectiveness of Council & improve public perception of Council
4. How big should government be?
5. Improve business/customer service (ordinances. Rules, planning, negotiating red tape)
6. Parks/Trails
7. Stormwater Management/Sucker Brook
8. Creative ways to provide and fund municipal services
9. Evaluation process for outside services agency funding before budget begins
10. Review election issues related to district elections (change charter/separate voting areas/etc?)
11. Rules of governance/review of Charter for inconsistencies

Mil Rate

1. Mil rate the same, town to absorb school/county increases – Hornbrook, Williams
2. Town-based mil rate the same, voters voted to absorb the .35 increase due to school debt service – Hughes, Lawlis, Wright
3. Town-based mil rate as close as possible but not absorb school increases – Brann
4. Seek to keep the mil rate as close to current as possible – Cushing

The workshop was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lessard

Town Manager